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Chief, Producers Equipment Branch, D/I

14 July 1959

Deputy Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

Project 32.2471, The Soviet Concept of Seriality  
of Production

1. From the discussion presented in the paper it appears that Soviet practice in the use of the terms small, medium, and large serial production varies with the weight and complexity of the product and that comparability in the use of these terms between industries is not consistently established. It may even follow that in the case of a radically new product, initial usage of the terms to describe the kind of seriality employed will vary considerably, particularly among non-technical persons.

2. Some of these facts are implied in the body of the paper, but they show up there as apparent contradictions in presentation which are not resolved until the conclusion. The fact that there are inconsistencies in Soviet practice should be shown in the body of the paper.

3. I would also recommend rephrasing the title of Part 7, "Conclusions", to "Conclusions Concerning the Soviet Concept of Seriality of Production". To this I recommend adding a final Part 8, entitled "Seriality and the Production of the ICBM", to which the present paragraph on the ICBM should be moved. This paragraph needs some amplification, however, since by the logic of the rest of the paper, the ICBM must be categorized as to size, complexity, organization of production, and output before the nature of its seriality can be judged. Based on a short discussion of this problem, I suggest that a tabulation be prepared relating hypothetical outputs of ICBMs (obtained from I/GM) to the levels of seriality.

4. Although the paper is short, it would benefit from a Table of Contents and a brief Summary and Conclusion. I shall be happy, of course, to discuss these comments and the attached suggestions with you and [REDACTED]

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Attachment

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